

## NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

D.T.E. 01-31

The Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department"), on its own motion, has opened an investigation into the appropriate regulatory plan to succeed price cap regulation for Verizon New England, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts' ("Verizon's") retail intrastate telecommunications services in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Department hereby begins its investigation by directing Verizon to file with the Department a proposed retail price plan. Verizon's proposal must include, at a minimum, the following:

1. a component for regulating or deregulating retail prices;
2. a plan for regulating service quality; and
3. a plan for intrastate access charge reform similar to that approved by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") for interstate charges. See Access Charge Reform, Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers, CC Docket Nos. 96-262 and 94-1, Sixth Report and Order, Low-Volume Long-Distance Users, CC Docket No. 99-249, Report and Order, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Eleventh Report and Order, 15 FCC Rcd 12962, petitions for review pending, Texas Office of Pub. Util. Counsel et al. v. FCC, 5<sup>th</sup> Cir. Nos. 00-60434 (and consolidated cases)(2000) ("FCC CALLS Order").

The Department invites all interested persons who are substantially and specifically affected by the issues under investigation to petition to intervene in this proceeding. Written petitions to intervene in this docket must be filed with the Secretary of the Department at the following address by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17, 2001:

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary

Re: D.T.E. 01-31

Department of Telecommunications and Energy

One South Station, Second Floor

Boston, MA 02110

In addition, all petitions to intervene are to be submitted by electronic mail to [Paula.Foley@DPU.state.ma.us](mailto:Paula.Foley@DPU.state.ma.us) and [dte.efiling@state.ma.us](mailto:dte.efiling@state.ma.us). A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 C.M.R. § 1.03. Receipt by the Department - not mailing - constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. To be allowed, a petition under 220 C.M.R. § 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L.c. 30A, § 10.

The Department will hold a procedural conference on Friday, April 6, 2001, following a public hearing at the Department's offices, to establish a procedural schedule for the orderly conduct of the investigation. The Department intends for this proceeding to be conducted as an "adjudicatory proceeding" as defined in G.L.c. 30A, § 1(1).

The Department will hold public hearings on the above-captioned matter in the following locations at the following dates and times:

**1. Plymouth North High School Auditorium, 41 Obery Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts, on Tuesday, April 3, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.;**

**2. Fanning Building Auditorium, 24 Chatham Street, Worcester, Massachusetts, on Thursday, April 5, 2001, at 7:00 p.m.;**

**3. Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, Second Floor, Boston, Massachusetts, on Friday, April 6, 2001, at 10:00 a.m.; and**

**4. Pittsfield City Hall, City Council Chambers, 70 Allen Street, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, on Tuesday, April 17, 2001, at 7:00 p.m.**

Members of the public are invited to attend and express their views.

By Order of the Department,

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MARY L. COTTRELL, SECRETARY